

WEATHER FORECAST.
Fair and cooler to-day; to-morrow partly
cloudy and warmer; south winds.
Highest temperature yesterday, 78; lowest, 58.
Detailed weather reports on last page.



IT SHINES FOR ALL

VOL. LXXXV.—NO. 251.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1918.—Copyright, 1918, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

GERMANS PENETRATE ALLIED LINE SOUTHWEST OF YPRES; MORE THAN 500,000 U. S. TROOPS IN FRANCE, SAYS BAKER; COMMISSION RECOMMENDS \$300,000,000 RAIL PAY RAISE

FROM \$1 TO \$34 MORE A MONTH ASKED FOR MEN

Increases Ranging From
One to Forty-three Per
Cent. Urged.

LIVING COSTS ARE BLAMED

Hours and Overtime Pay
Questions Deferred Until
After War Ends.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—An increase in wages ranging as high as 43 per cent. and graded down to a fraction of 1 per cent. is recommended for all of the railroad employees of the country in the report of the Railroad Wage Commission to Director-General of Railroads McAdoo.

In dollars the wage advances recommended range from \$1 to as much as \$34 a month. The lowest paid employees, those getting from \$46 to \$50 a month, get the maximum percentage increase. The percentage grades out at nothing when the \$250 a month mark is reached.

If the increases as recommended by the wage board are approved by the Director-General they will entail an additional wage expenditure for the railroads aggregating \$300,000,000 a year. They are made retroactive to January 1 and the railroad workers will collect back pay aggregating \$100,000,000 for the four months up to May 1.

The report of the commission appointed by Director-General McAdoo recommending these wage advances was unanimous. It was signed by Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, ex chairman; by Interstate Commerce Commissioner McChord, Justice J. Harry Covington, of the district of Columbia Supreme Court, and William R. Wilcox, former chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Reasons for Advance.
In declaring the principle upon which it based its findings the commission said, after citing the increased cost of living: "In fairness therefore a sufficient increase should be granted to maintain the standard of living which was obtained in the pre-war period, when cost of living was low and wages were both low. And upon those who can best afford to sacrifice should be cast the great burden."

It was in accordance with this principle that the increases recommended were graded. Those officials and employees getting \$100 or more a month will not participate in the increases. The commission found as an economic fact that those getting the greater wage were able to pay a larger percentage of the cost of living than those getting the lowest wage, who had nothing but the bare necessities and could not cut down.

Consequently all of the increases carried were worked out upon a percentage basis. This was deemed to carry a fuller measure of fairness and justice. It was found that a flat increase of 10 per cent. would increase the railroad budget by half a billion dollars.

It is significant that the percentage increases granted apply on the wages paid December 31, 1915. Those employees who have received increases since that time will have the amount of such increases deducted from the percentage raise recommended in the report. It is urged, however, that in any case where increases given by the roads in the two years 1916 and 1917 are in excess of the commission's recommendations that no cut be made.

Paid Dollar Has Shrank.
The increases carried were based solely upon the rising cost of living. The commission finding that the purchasing power of the dollar had shrunk to a "shocking extent" in the two year period, dropping to a 71 cent equivalent.

It is recommended that no change be made in the hours of service now in effect, nor in the method of payment for overtime service. The eight hour day demanded is not recommended, on the ground that such a course would prove disastrous in view of the shortage of men and the inability to fill the ranks at this time. The report declared the eight hour day is coming, but that it is not the time for it on the railroads.

Deadly American Fire Revealed by a Letter

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 8.—A letter, freshly written, found on the body of a German killed by the Americans in Picardy discloses the effectiveness of the American fire against the enemy and the difficulties the Germans are having in bringing up supplies. The letter follows:

"Here we lie in a village which has been completely demolished by artillery fire. The village is near Montdidier.
"We dare not show ourselves. We live in the cellar. We have to go and get our food at night. Last night I went out with a shell which brought back food.
"We got a direct hit. A shell hit our party, which killed some men and wounded several. I hope we will soon be taken from the western army."

STIELOW FREED FROM SING SING

Whitman Orders Release of
Man Declared Innocent
by New Inquiry.

GREEN ALSO EXONERATED

Governor's Investigator Says
He Believes O'Connell and
King Were Slayed.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

ALBANY, May 8.—Charles F. Stielow, who was snatched from the shadow of the electric chair a few hours before his sentence was to be executed, has been exonerated of the murder of Charles E. Phelps and his housekeeper, Margaret Wilcott, at their farmhouse, West Shelby, Orleans county, three years ago. Gov. Whitman to-night ordered Stielow's release from Sing Sing prison and also the release of Nelson J. Green, who is serving a twenty year sentence in Auburn prison as an accomplice of Stielow.

Investigation by G. H. Bond.
Stielow's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment December 4, 1916, after three Supreme Court Justices had found Stielow a new trial. Some time ago Gov. Whitman had Attorney General Lewis appoint George H. Bond, former District Attorney of Onondaga, as a special Deputy Attorney-General to investigate all the facts connected with the murder, especially a confession made by Erwin King, a pedler, that the murder was committed by himself and Clarence O'Connell, now serving a sentence in Auburn for murder, and a bullet which was being still fired in the conviction that Stielow did the murder.

The Bond report based chiefly upon an alleged confession made to a private detective who was locked up with him and whose identity was unknown to Stielow. This confession was made to Stielow in the cell of Stielow and the detective, and Stielow and his attorney, in none of which did Stielow admit guilt.

Bullets Not From Stielow's Gun

Commissioner Bond points out that Stielow and Green lied at the Coroner's inquest when they said there was no revolver in the Stielow house the night of the Phelps murder. Later it was learned there was a revolver in Stielow's house. An expert on revolvers testified at Stielow's trial that the bullets taken from the bodies of the two victims had been fired from Stielow's revolver. Commissioner Bond's investigation showed the bullets were not fired from the Stielow gun.

Gov. Whitman's action in freeing Stielow and Green, who will be released in a few days, was based upon these very positive statements as to the confession of Stielow and Green, contained in Commissioner Bond's report, which says:

"As a result of my investigation, and having regard to the new facts and evidence discovered and to the confession of Stielow and Green, I am fully convinced and give it as my deliberate opinion that Charles E. Phelps and Margaret Wilcott did not meet their death at the hands of Charles F. Stielow or Nelson J. Green, nor were Stielow or Green in any way accessories to the crime, nor did they have guilty knowledge of it.

On the other hand, I am as strongly convinced and give it as my deliberate opinion that the three bullets that were fired into the body of Charles E. Phelps, causing his death, and the bullet that was fired through the heart into the body of Margaret Wilcott, causing her death, were fired by Clarence F. O'Connell, now a convict in the State prison at Auburn, and that Erwin King was with him at the time and aided him in the commission of the murder."

FIND ARTILLERY DELAYS WORSE THAN AIRCRAFT

Senate Investigators Uncov-
er What They Regard as
Shameful Inefficiency.

BUNGLER IN HOWITZERS

Gun Carriages Also Held Up
by Futile Experiments—
Machine Tools Obsolete.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—The special subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs during the four days that it has been in secret session, has discovered, in the opinion of its members, that the state of affairs in the War Department's programme of field artillery production is more serious than that lately shown in the aircraft production.

Not only has the "fall-down," according to committee members, been more complete than that disclosed to exist in aircraft production, but the delays and deficiencies are more numerous and more vitally significant. Along with this fact there is, according to the committee, the accompanying information that the field artillery situation does not permit the exercise of corrective powers which will remedy matters in anything like the short time within which the shortcomings of the Aircraft Production Board can be overcome.

Secretary Baker has replied to the committee with respect to delay in delivery of the heavy type of Browning machine guns. There is a wide discrepancy between the information given by Mr. Baker and the reports emanating from the Capitol, although Mr. Baker admitted that predictions had been made that the production of the heavy type of Browning machine guns would be completed by the end of the year.

Baker's Statement.
"I have inquired into the question of the production of light and heavy Browning guns," Mr. Baker said. "No question seems to have been raised as to the production of the light type, which is coming through in quantity. Early manufacturers' estimates as to the heavy type were perhaps more optimistic than the actual production. The estimate of the Ordnance Department, however, in January, had been met and is being met by the production force.

The investigation has been under way less than a week, but has been productive already of information which is said by the committee to be of great value. It has actually been produced and there is every indication that they will be forthcoming in increasing and substantial numbers. In the meantime there is no present shortage of light or heavy machine guns either in France or America, and no shortage is in prospect.

The special subcommittee now consists of Senators Hitchcock (Neb.), Beckham (Ky.) and Fletcher (Fla.), Democrats, and Wadsworth (N. Y.) and Weeks (Mass.), Republicans.

The investigation has been under way less than a week, but has been productive already of information which is said by the committee to be of great value. It has actually been produced and there is every indication that they will be forthcoming in increasing and substantial numbers. In the meantime there is no present shortage of light or heavy machine guns either in France or America, and no shortage is in prospect.

The special subcommittee now consists of Senators Hitchcock (Neb.), Beckham (Ky.) and Fletcher (Fla.), Democrats, and Wadsworth (N. Y.) and Weeks (Mass.), Republicans.

American Army Traitor Arrested in Lines as Spy

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 8.—The first German American to be caught spying on the Americans is safely in custody.

Behind the characterization of traitor to his country contained in the report of his arrest is the story that he aided a German prisoner to escape. Both men donned American officers' uniforms and entered the line from the rear in the late afternoon. They said they were studying the ground between the lines with a view to using tanks, and asked to be allowed to cross the lines.

The officer to whom they made the request soon discovered the ruse and ordered them escorted to the rear. There it was found that one of the men was a German and that the German American was his accomplice.

SHELLS KILL 9 IN TEXAS CAMP

Gun Battery Wiped Out by
Premature Explosion of
Projectile.

GEN. GREBLE ESCAPES

Attempt of Artilleryman to
Force Explosive Into Mor-
tar Is Blamed.

Fort Worth, Tex., May 8.—Nine American soldiers were killed and seven injured more or less seriously near Benbrook, a few miles west of Fort Worth, when a three inch shell exploded at 3 o'clock this afternoon. One gun crew, made up of members of the Headquarters Company of the 141st Infantry, was wiped out and a second crew from the Headquarters Company of the 142d Infantry suffered heavy casualties.

Six of the men were killed and three died within a short time after the explosion.

Shell Was Mishandled.
An attempt on the part of a gunner to force the shell, which apparently did not fit, down a trench mortar, is believed to have been responsible for the accident. Sergeant Norman Bow, a Canadian, who is an assistant instructor, said to-night he saw a soldier attempting to force the shell and that he attempted to warn the gunner. The explosion came too quickly, however.

Bow was slightly wounded by a fragment of the shell. The list of dead follows: McDAVID, ALAN J., First Lieutenant, Headquarters Company, 142d Infantry, Fort Worth, Tex. ELLIS, W. J., Corporal, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry, San Antonio, Tex. APPEL, WILLIAM P., Corporal, 141st Infantry, El Paso, Tex. BAKER, GEORGE, Private, Headquarters Company, 142d Infantry, Abilene, Tex. SIMMONS, EUGENE, private, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry, Memphis, Tenn. WERNER, H. J., private, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry, Memphis, Tenn. LANGLEY, LACY, private, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry, Wadsworth, Tex.

The wounded, except Sergeant Bow, were all from Texas.

Gen. Greble Near Accident

Gen. E. St. John Greble, commanding officer at Camp Bowie, was standing less than ten yards from the scene of the explosion with his two aides, Capt. Hough and Lieut. Russell. They were uninjured. Lieut. Col. Metcalfe, division surgeon, and an enlisted man, also division surgeon, and an enlisted man, also division surgeon, were standing near by. The enlisted man was instantly killed, but Metcalfe was uninjured. The bodies of the victims were literally blown to pieces.

The 141st and 142d Infantry regiments were at the trench system near Benbrook and the firing practice was being watched from a distance by a large crowd of civilians. New mortars were being used for the first time and the sound of heavy firing at the camp had been plainly heard in Fort Worth since early morning.

The two gun crews, made up of men from the headquarters companies of the two regiments, were operating the new mortars, which were located on a hill overlooking the trench system.

The entire breach of the mortar was blown out and fragments flew in every direction.

THE TWO GUN CREWS, MADE UP OF MEN FROM THE HEADQUARTERS COMPANIES OF THE TWO REGIMENTS, WERE OPERATING THE NEW MORTARS, WHICH WERE LOCATED ON A HILL OVERLOOKING THE TRENCH SYSTEM.

THE ENTIRE BREACH OF THE MORTAR WAS BLOWN OUT AND FRAGMENTS FLEW IN EVERY DIRECTION.

LLOYD GEORGE TO FACE CRISIS IN HOUSE TO-DAY

Will Answer Maurice's
Charge Impugning His
Veracity About Army.

BOOMERANG IS HINTED

French Said to Have Request-
ed Extension of British
Lines at Front.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, May 8.—Premier Lloyd George has decided to stand or fall on the outcome of his reply to-morrow in the House of Commons to the charges made by Major-Gen. F. B. Maurice that the Ministers have deceived the public as to military conditions on the western front.

After the Prime Minister's statement, according to present indications, former Premier Asquith will press his demand that a select committee of Parliament be named to investigate the charges, with power to take evidence under oath. The Government, which suggested yesterday the appointment of a court of honor consisting of two judges to pass on the charges, changed its mind over night. It has decided to treat Mr. Asquith's motion as a vote of no confidence, and should Mr. Asquith after the Prime Minister's explanation press his motion to a vote Parliament will have to make a decision which will involve the fate of the Government.

Cannot Accept Suggestion

The Government cannot, of course, accept the suggestion that a select committee be appointed to inquire into the accuracy of statements by the Prime Minister and the leader of the House. Neither of the Ministers concerned could remain in office while such a committee was being set up. The Government is being investigated by the committee. The circumstances and the nature of the charges render it imperative that the allegations should be cleared up as soon as possible. The Government's explanation entitles it to a continuance of the confidence of the country.

The defiant tone in which Chancellor Bonar Law announced that disciplinary measures were to be taken against Gen. Maurice, who is being brought before the army council, is taken to indicate that Premier Lloyd George has every intention of accepting Maurice's challenge as to the inaccuracy of his statements and of defeating the matter.

There is reason to believe the Government has a complete answer to the charges, but there are certain confidential matters particularly related to the extension of the British front in France which for obvious military reasons cannot be disclosed. It is said, however, that this will not affect the convincing nature of the reply.

Result of French Requests

The Prime Minister will make it known that the extension of the British line early this year was the result of repeated requests of the French army chiefs and that Premier Clemenceau said Marshal Haig personally about the matter, which was arranged without delay. The extension of the British line at the time of the Versailles council.

It is believed that Gen. Maurice's statement that he was at Versailles when the matter was arranged refers to a late date of the extension of the British line. The extension of the British line at the time of the Versailles council.

While the issue, broadly speaking, is continued on Second Page.

500,000 Men Need Millions of Smokes

MORE than half a million American troops are now in France, says Secretary Baker, and more are going across constantly. Do you realize what those figures mean? You did when you sent your contribution to THE SUN Tobacco Fund, but it takes many contributions to keep our fighters supplied with smokes. The flag must follow the flag!

If you are unconvinced turn to page 7. The soldiers think of those who have given to the fund and thus helped to make them happy.

TROOP FIGURES PROBABLY BIGGER THAN BAKER TELLS

American Soldiers Are Being Rushed Abroad Now
Five Times Faster Than They Were a
Few Months Ago.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—Secretary of War Baker announced to-night that more than 500,000 American troops are already in France. He made this statement:

In January I told the Senate committee that there was strong likelihood that early in the present year 500,000 American troops would be despatched to France.

I cannot, either now or perhaps later, discuss the number of American troops in France, but I am glad to be able to say that the forecast I made in January has been surpassed. The announcement by Mr. Baker is taken generally to mean that the number may be considerably in excess of 500,000 by this time, for it is known that the War Department has been averse to giving the enemy any hint as to the number of troops abroad. The assumption therefore is that the enemy's knowledge of numbers is not materially increased by this statement which Mr. Baker made to-day.

It has been an open secret for several weeks that transportation of American troops to Europe was proceeding at a greatly accelerated rate. This has been particularly true since the German drive began, March 21.

In response to urgent appeals from both the French and British Governments, President Wilson ordered that troop shipments have priority over everything else, and that all available tonnage be used to this end. Before the tonnage which the American Government made available there was increased tonnage provided by the British Government, which turned over a considerable number of transports to carry American troops.

An important factor in the plans for speeding up troop shipments was the agreement reached among the British, American and French Governments by which American soldiers were to be brigaded into British or French formations. This meant that the Americans would be supplied and cared for by the British and French army units to which they were assigned. It permitted the United States to send men lightly equipped and without thought of feeding or maintaining them after they reached the battle zone.

Detailed figures as to the rate at which Americans are now being sent abroad are not permitted, but it may be said that they are going nearly five times as fast as they were only a few months ago.

Particularly true since the German drive began, March 21.

In response to urgent appeals from both the French and British Governments, President Wilson ordered that troop shipments have priority over everything else, and that all available tonnage be used to this end. Before the tonnage which the American Government made available there was increased tonnage provided by the British Government, which turned over a considerable number of transports to carry American troops.

An important factor in the plans for speeding up troop shipments was the agreement reached among the British, American and French Governments by which American soldiers were to be brigaded into British or French formations. This meant that the Americans would be supplied and cared for by the British and French army units to which they were assigned. It permitted the United States to send men lightly equipped and without thought of feeding or maintaining them after they reached the battle zone.

Detailed figures as to the rate at which Americans are now being sent abroad are not permitted, but it may be said that they are going nearly five times as fast as they were only a few months ago.

Particularly true since the German drive began, March 21.

In response to urgent appeals from both the French and British Governments, President Wilson ordered that troop shipments have priority over everything else, and that all available tonnage be used to this end. Before the tonnage which the American Government made available there was increased tonnage provided by the British Government, which turned over a considerable number of transports to carry American troops.

An important factor in the plans for speeding up troop shipments was the agreement reached among the British, American and French Governments by which American soldiers were to be brigaded into British or French formations. This meant that the Americans would be supplied and cared for by the British and French army units to which they were assigned. It permitted the United States to send men lightly equipped and without thought of feeding or maintaining them after they reached the battle zone.

Detailed figures as to the rate at which Americans are now being sent abroad are not permitted, but it may be said that they are going nearly five times as fast as they were only a few months ago.

Particularly true since the German drive began, March 21.

In response to urgent appeals from both the French and British Governments, President Wilson ordered that troop shipments have priority over everything else, and that all available tonnage be used to this end. Before the tonnage which the American Government made available there was increased tonnage provided by the British Government, which turned over a considerable number of transports to carry American troops.

An important factor in the plans for speeding up troop shipments was the agreement reached among the British, American and French Governments by which American soldiers were to be brigaded into British or French formations. This meant that the Americans would be supplied and cared for by the British and French army units to which they were assigned. It permitted the United States to send men lightly equipped and without thought of feeding or maintaining them after they reached the battle zone.

Detailed figures as to the rate at which Americans are now being sent abroad are not permitted, but it may be said that they are going nearly five times as fast as they were only a few months ago.

Particularly true since the German drive began, March 21.

Enemy Gets Into Trenches of British and French Around Kemmel.

HITS FOR HIGH GROUND
Haig Reports Some of Posi-
tions Still Lost, but the
Fighting Continues.

AUSTRALIANS MAKE GAIN

Between the Somme and the
Ancre Their Lines Are Ad-
vanced at Two Points.

LONDON, May 8.—In what Field Marshal Haig in his report to-day de-

scribes as a strong local operation against the French and British between La Clytte and Voormezele, back of Mont Kemmel, the Germans pierced the Allies' line and established a footing in it which they still retain.

"At certain points," Gen. Haig adds, although heavy fighting was still in progress when the latest reports were sent. At all other points the attacks were repulsed. Earlier in the day the French, by another local operation, had advanced their line south of La Clytte and had taken some prisoners.

The point where the heaviest attack was delivered is immediately south of Dickeybusch Lake, about midway between La Clytte, which is held by the British, and Voormezele, which is guarded by Haig's troops. It is supposed that this place the two armies overlap or intermingled to some extent, always a favorite point for a German attack, as it is, in a military sense, the weakest link in the chain.

May Develop Into Attack

The attack was preceded by an exceptionally heavy bombardment of this region and of the area west of Bailloult, further to the west. Although it may be, as Gen. Haig terms it, a local operation, it may and probably will develop into an attack of some importance. The German drive was in the eastern and western end of the north side of the Lys salient in an effort to envelop and take from the northwest and northeast the range of hills which have proved a thorn in the side of the German army.

So far the Allies hold this high ground a further advance westward by the Germans must be out of the question, as such advance would make the salient perilously deep; yet the position of the Germans on the low ground, under continued rain, one vast quagmire, barely tenable, and they must get out of it at any cost either by taking the high ground or by withdrawing. This is the explanation of the long delay in the resumption of the German offensive at a time when the Allies are at the height of their alertness and the highest importance to the Germans because of the depressing effect of their inaction on the political situation at home.

A correspondent at the front describing the main attack of the Germans, said: "The British-British junction point in Flanders says: 'The attack apparently was only in a local nature, but it may develop into a general one. The enemy has penetrated our front line near Dickeybusch Lake and Ridge wood, and some parties of Germans are reported in the neighborhood of the ridge. The fighting continues in the weather and under good visibility.'

We still hold the major part of the wood and also the village of Bailloult. The technical objective of enemy operations seems to be an attempt to clear the way for a thrust toward Scherpenberg from the northeast, and it may prove to be the beginning of further fierce fighting in this region."

British Progress in Picardy.
German artillery has been active on the southern side of the Lys salient, about Locon and Robecq and near St. Julien. On other sections of the battle front in Picardy the British made advances in three localities between the Somme and the Ancre.

Still further south on the French sector the Germans have been active, but both north and south of the Ancre. Raids attempted by the Germans near Thennes and Criveneux and west of Montdidier were broken up.

The Associated Press correspondent with the British army in France says there was a tremendous amount of wrangling among the heavy guns down between the Somme and the Ancre rivers last night. The British troops on both sides of the sector thought the long expected German attack was beginning, but anxious inquiries elicited the information that it was only the Australians beating the Germans again.

Australians Hammer Hard

The men from far overseas had not had a real fight since Sunday night, when they drove the enemy back along the front line near the village of Morlanwell, and they were spoiling for trouble. It was high ground the British were after and they improved their positions during the night.

In the fighting around Sully-le-Seul the Germans put down a heavy machine gun and snarled barrage, but could not hold back the hard hitting Australians, who pushed forward their lines 200 yards along a front of 600 yards near Sully, and they also pushed back the Germans 200 yards along a front of 500 yards west of Morlanwell, just above Sully.

Vienna newspapers of Saturday received at The Hague, the Czech press said that the internal situation in Austria-Hungary is greatly strained. The Socialist Arbeiter Zeitung, whose circulation in Germany has been stopped, says that the Government cannot be aware of actual conditions in Austria or otherwise it would not play with fire. It says that the Government of France is screwed down the last safety valve.

OFFICIAL BULLETINS OF DAY'S OPERATIONS

LONDON, May 8.—Following are the official reports on the fighting in France and Flanders:
BRITISH (NIGHT). The enemy launched a strong local attack this morning against French and British